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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF STANDARDS
George K. Burgess, Director

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MASTER SPECIFICATION FOR WHITE COTTON RAGS FOR WIPING MACHINERY (STERILIZED)

FEDERAL SPECIFICATIONS BOARD SPECIFICATION No. 261

This specification was officially promulgated by the Federal Specifications Board on December 6, 1924, for the use of the Departments and Independent Establishments of the Government in the purchase of white cotton rags for wiping machinery (sterilized).

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	Grade	1
II.	Material	1
III.	General requirements	2
IV.	Detail requirements	2
V.	Methods of tests	2
VI.	Packing	3
VII.	Additional information	3
VIII.	General specifications	3

I. GRADE

This specification covers one grade only.

II. MATERIAL

The rags shall be white and selected. They shall be free from starched or stiffened pieces, as poplins, sateens, and kindred lustrous fabrics. They shall be free from buttons, hooks, eyes, grit, and dirt, and practically free from seams; and, in addition to being washed and sterilized, they shall be soft, absorbent, lightweight, and dry.

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III. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

No details specified.

IV. DETAIL REQUIREMENTS

1. Size.—The minimum size of cloths shall have an area of at least 2 square feet and a minimum width of 10 inches. The maximum area shall not exceed 6 square feet. The maximum dimension shall not exceed 36 inches.

2. Weight.—The maximum weight of any rag shall not exceed approximately 9 ounces per square yard, except in the case of toweling and heavily napped rags.

3. Requirement Table.—

Gross weight of bale in pounds (nominal)	Volume of bale (approximate)	Tare (maximum)
	Cubic feet	*Per cent*
50	3½	6
100	7	6
600	35	6

A variation of plus or minus 10 per cent from the nominal weight of individual bales will be permitted.

4. Moisture and Tare Content.—If the weight of wrapping, including hoops or ties, exceeds the amount specified in the requirement table, or if the moisture content exceeds 7 per cent, the excess weight shall be deducted at the same price per pound that is paid for the waste; provided further, that if the tare exceeds 10 per cent of the gross weight, or if the moisture content exceeds 10 per cent, the waste shall be rejected.

V. METHOD OF TESTS

1. Sampling.—In addition to the samples required for the regular tests, immediately after the total weight of the material is obtained, a sample approximately 1 to 1½ pounds shall be pulled out and weighed to the nearest one-eighth ounce. This sample shall be properly marked with identification and weight, wrapped in strong paper, and retained for test in case of dispute in regard to the moisture content.

2. Moisture and Tare Content.—The determination of moisture and tare content shall follow the testing procedure agreed upon by the contracting parties, such as the bone-dry or similar methods.

3. Moisture Content (Umpire Test).—In the event of a dispute in regard to moisture content, the following procedure shall be used:

The sample prepared for this purpose (see V, 1) shall be shipped to a conditioning laboratory, where it shall be exposed for at least four hours to an atmosphere of 65 per cent relative humidity and 70° F. and then weighed with equivalent accuracy. When the moisture content exceeds 7 per cent, the whole of the entire shipment may be based on the corrected weight of the sample.

$$\text{Wt. of bale conditioned} = \frac{(\text{Wt. of bale}) \times (\text{Wt. of sample conditioned})}{\text{Wt. of sample as pulled out}}$$

VI. PACKING

The material shall be properly baled in clean burlap and well secured with hoops or ties.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Use.—These cloths are intended for wiping purposes and should be as absorbent as possible. The limits of the size are fixed so that any one rag can be held easily in the hand.

VIII. GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

No details specified.

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